Message

From: Sullivan, Lauren [Lauren.Sullivan@mt.gov]
Sent: 8/28/2019 8:05:07 PM
To: Fish, Tonya [Fish.Tonya@epa.gov]
CC: Suplee, Michael [msuplee@mt.gov]; Kelly, Myla [MKelly2@mt.gov]; Gildea, Jason [Gildea.Jason@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Draft text for EPA management on Lake K Se criteria

Hi Tonya,

Thanks for sharing this. The only thing I would suggest modification on is clarifying that the mechanistic model is our primary model for deriving water column values. The empirical model, in which Joe Beaman is leading the effort on, is not necessarily considered separate from the ecosystem scale model, rather it is being used in conjunction with the mechanistic model.

Thanks,
Lauren

From: Fish, Tonya [mailto:Fish.Tonya@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4:39 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren <Lauren.Sullivan@mt.gov>
Cc: Suplee, Michael <msuplee@mt.gov>; Kelly, Myla <MKelly2@mt.gov>; Gildea, Jason <Gildea.Jason@epa.gov>
Subject: Draft text for EPA management on Lake K Se criteria

Lauren,

As I said on the call today, I've been asked to put together a briefing for EPA management that focuses on the criteria background and status. Is the text below an accurate summary of the state's plans at this point?

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Since 2015, Montana and British Columbia (BC) have been working towards a recommended site-specific selenium water quality criterion for Lake Koocanusa, a reservoir that is over 100 miles long with about half of the lake in Montana and half in BC. In addition, Montana intends to adopt the EPA recommended selenium criterion for the Kootenai River, which is downstream of Lake Koocanusa. Montana plans to start rulemaking in July 2020 and adopt final selenium criteria for these water bodies in December 2020.

Montana Selenium Criterion

- Montana is developing a site-specific water quality criterion for selenium to protect the designated use of aquatic life.
- Montana's current selenium aquatic life criteria that apply statewide are 5 µg/L (chronic) and 20 µg/L (acute), which are water column concentrations based on EPA's 1987 recommendation.
- The state is pursuing both the mechanistic model and empirical model for translating fish tissue criterion elements into site-specific water column criterion elements.
    - Montana contracted with USGS to run the mechanistic model for a range of fish tissue alternatives (egg/ovary 11.0 -15.1 mg Se/kg). By April/May 2020, USGS will complete a report on the modeling results and range of water column criteria.

- Empirical Bioaccumulation Factor (BAF) Model – EPA contracted with Great Lakes Environmental Center, Inc. to complete this modeling effort in the same April/May 2020 timeframe [I'll have Joe Beaman check this]